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Letter dated 30 November 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 30 November 1999, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 63 and 158, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Volkan VURAL
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

99-37014 (E) 021299

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Annex

Letter dated 30 November 1999 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative at the 11th meeting of the Sixth Committee on 20 October 1999, under agenda item 158, entitled "Establishment of an international criminal court" (see A/C.6/54/SR.11), in which unfounded allegations were made distorting the true nature of the Cyprus question. Since the Turkish Cypriot side is being denied its right to speak in the said Committee, I am compelled to respond to these allegations in writing.

The Greek Cypriot representative, in a vain attempt to shift the responsibility for the creation and perpetuation of the Cyprus question, tries to portray his administration as the victim of "aggression" and "occupation" in Cyprus. Even a cursory glance at the contemporary history of Cyprus would suffice to identify the real aggressor in Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot representative refers to the legitimate Turkish intervention in Cyprus as an "invasion". I wish to recall that it was the Greek Cypriot armed onslaught in December 1963 against the Turkish Cypriot people that led to the division on the island 11 years prior to the legitimate Turkish intervention of 1974. For 11 years the Turkish Cypriot people were forced to live in enclaves, deprived of all basic humanitarian needs.

In 1974 Turkey acted in accordance with its rights and obligations under the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee in the wake of a bloody coup d'état instigated by the junta in Greece and its collaborators in Cyprus. As a Guarantor Power, Turkey's presence in Northern Cyprus today remains indispensable for the protection and security of the Turkish Cypriot people, for the maintenance of peace and stability on the island as well as in the region, and for creating an atmosphere conducive to finding a lasting solution.

As regards the so-called "colonization" of Northern Cyprus it should be pointed out that it is the Greek Cypriot side that has always tried to alter the demographic character of Cyprus, not only by introducing thousands of settlers from Greece but also by trying to cleanse Cyprus of its ethnic Turkish population. Between 1963 and 1974, the Greek Cypriots forcibly displaced one fourth of the Turkish Cypriot population and tried to eradicate the Turkish Muslim heritage of Cyprus by destroying mosques, shrines and other places of Muslim worship across the island. Hundreds of Turkish Cypriots fell victim to Greek Cypriot atrocities.

If the Greek Cypriot side is genuinely interested in reconciliation, it should abandon its campaign of false propaganda directed against Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus especially at a time when the parties have agreed to start proximity talks in order to prepare the ground for meaningful negotiations.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 63 and 158, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ PLÜMER
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus